

REMARKS

In view of the following remarks, the Examiner is requested to allow Claims 30-31 and 34-47, the only claims pending and under examination in this application.

The Examiner is thanked for allowing Claims 34 to 45.

In the above amendments, Claims 49 and 50 have been cancelled. In addition, Claims 30 and 46 have been amended to replace the phrase "cut having an elongated shape" and "cut" with "slit." Support for this amendment can be found in Fig. 3, where the openings shown in the figure are slits. The word "slit" means "a long, straight, narrow cut or opening."¹ As seen in Fig. 3, the openings are long, straight, narrow openings and therefore are slits. As such, full support for the amendments to Claims 30 and 46 appears in Fig. 3 and the amendments therefore introduce no new matter. Furthermore, the amendments overcome remaining rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph as explained further below. As the above amendments introduce no new matter to the application and place the claims in condition for allowance, their entry by the Examiner is respectfully requested.

Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph

Claims 30, 31, 46, 47, 49 and 50 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph for various issues.

In making this rejection, with respect to Claims 30 and 46 and claims dependent thereon, the Examiner has asserted that the claims are indefinite because of the asserted lack of clarity with respect to the term "cut." For example, the Examiner asserts that lack of clarity is present because it is not clear how the cut was formed, e.g., with scissors or a scalpel.

¹ The American Heritage® Dictionary of the English Language, Fourth Edition
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While not agreeing with the position of the Office and solely in order to expedite prosecution of the application, Claims 30 and 46 have been amended to replace the objected to phrase and term that include the word "cut" with "slit." As this new term is definite, this amendment overcomes this rejection with respect to these claims.

In addition, Claims 49 and 50 have been cancelled.

Accordingly, this rejection may be withdrawn.

CONCLUSION

Applicants submit that all of the claims are in condition for allowance, which action is requested. If the Examiner finds that a telephone conference would expedite the prosecution of this application, please telephone Bret Field at (650) 327-3400.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any underpayment of fees associated with this communication, including any necessary fees for extensions of time, or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 50-1078.

Respectfully submitted,
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Date: June 10, 2010

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